

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 231455Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9726

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5563

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR US TU

SUBJECT: GREEK STATEMENT ON TURKISH AID

REF: STATE 172143

1. DRAWING ON THE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL, I SPOKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TODAY ABOUT THE GREEK AMBASSADOR'S PUBLIC STATEMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON ON TURKISH AID. I ASKED BITSIOS IF HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT OF AMB ALEXANDRAKIS' MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO ON THIS SUBJECT, AND HE SAID HE HAD. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT SUCH A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AT THIS DELICATE AND EXTREMELY SENSITIVE MOMENT SIMPLY COULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE USG. VOLUNTEERED AND PUBLICIZED AS IT WAS JUST ON THE EVE OF AN IMPORTANT VOTE IN OUR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IT COULD NOT BUT BE REGARDED BY THE USG AS AN IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN US DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THIS POINT TO HIM IMMEDIATELY AND TO LET HIM AND THE GOG KNOW THAT WE VIEWED THIS AS A MOST SERIOUS MATTER.

2. BITSIOS LISTENED TO ME ATTENTIVELY, NON-COMMITTALLY, AND COLDLY. HE SEEMED TO MAKE CAREFUL MENTAL NOTE OF THE WORDS AND PHRASES I WAS USING TO EXPRESS OUR VIEW OF THIS MATTER. AT ONE POINT HE APPEARED TO BEGIN SOME KIND OF
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RESPONSE, AS AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED. HE STARTED

TO SAY OR IMPLY THAT ANY AUTHORIZATION GIVEN TO ALEXANDRAKIS
TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT "ANTEDATED" MY EARLIER AND CATE-
GORICAL ASSURANCES TO HIM THAT NEITHER UNDER SECRETARY SISCO
NOR ANY OTHER "US OFFICIAL" HAD ENDEAVORED IN ANY WAY TO
SPEAK FOR THE GREEK GOVT ON THIS SUBJECT (STATE 164680
AND ATHENS 5231). HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO THINK THE
BETTER OF IT AND AFTER ALLOWING ME TO FINISH SPEAKING MY
PIECE, INDICATED HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY ON THE
SUBJECT. IT WAS A SHORT AND STIFF
CONVERSATION BUT HE GOT THE MESSAGE.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS, SALES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS05563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750254-0474
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750727/aaaaayej.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 172143
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK STATEMENT ON TURKISH AID
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, TU, (ALEXANDRAKIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006